## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 MBFR-02 SAJ-01 NEA-06 PM-03

ACDA-10 MC-02 RSR-01 TRSE-00 /073 W ...... 126698

R 201740 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8418
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCEUR

CONFIDENTIAL ROME 3198

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, FR

SUBJECT: FRANCE AND THE WEU'S STANDING COMMITTEE ON ARMAMENTS

REF: ROME 1969

1. IN CALL AT FONOFF ON OTHER SUBJECTS. EMBOFF ASKED DA RIN WHAT WAS RESULT OF ITALIAN EFFORTS TO PROBE FRENCH ON THEIR ALLEGED DESIRE TO REJUVENATE WEU'S STANDING COMMITTEE ON ARMAMENTS (SEE REFTEL). DA RIN, SOMEWHAT SHEEPISHLY, ADMITTED ITALIANS HAD DRAWN A COMPLETE BLANK. HE SAID ITALIAN FONOFF HAD PROPOSED TO FRENCH THAT AGENDA FOR PERIODIC BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN FONMINS, I. E., MBFR, SALT, ETC., BE BROADENED TO INCLUDE POSSIBLE NON-NATO VENUES IN WHICH FRANCE COULD PARTICIPATE IN SUBSTANTIVE DEFENSE POLICY DISCUSSION WITH OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. FRENCH REFUSED TO ENLARGE AGENDA AND SUGGESTED THAT SUBJECT COULD JUST AS

WELL BE ADDRESSED BY FRENCH EMBASSY IN ROME.

2. ACCORDING TO DA RIN, ITALIAN FONOFF IS NOT HAPPY WITH THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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MARKED LACK OF INTEREST ON PART OF FRENCH IN WHAT ITALIANS CONSIDER TO BE AN INITIATIVE DECIDEDLY IN FRANCE'S INTEREST. DA RIN REMARKED SOMEWHAT TESTILY THAT ITALY WOULD NEED HELP FROM FRANCE IF IT IS TO CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR FRENCH INVOLVEMENT IN EUROPEAN DEFENSE DISCUSSIONS.

3. WE GATHER FROM THIS THAT NO NEW INITIATIVES ON PART OF ITALY WILL BE UNDERTAKEN FOR TIME BEING UNLESS FRENCH ADOPT MORE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE. BEAUDRY

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<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* LIMDIS

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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TAGS: PFOR, FR, NATO

To: BONN EUR LONDON NATO

PARIS SECSTATE WASHDC

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